



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 547

January Session, 2015

Substitute Senate Bill No. 454

Senate, April 8, 2015

The Committee on Planning and Development reported through SEN. OSTEN of the 19th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING PAYMENT OF THE COSTS OF CERTIFICATION FOR A POLICE OFFICER.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) For purposes of this
2 section, "police officer", "certification" and "law enforcement unit" have
3 the same meanings as provided in section 7-294a of the general statutes
4 and "cost of certification" means the cost of training, equipment,
5 uniforms, salary and fringe benefits and any cost related to the entry
6 level requirements established by the Police Officer Standards and
7 Training Council associated with the police officer, except that "cost of
8 certification" does not include the cost of any equipment or uniforms
9 that were returned by such officer.

10 (b) Whenever a police officer obtains certification while employed
11 by a law enforcement unit and is subsequently hired by another law
12 enforcement unit on or after the effective date of this section and
13 within two years of such officer obtaining such certification, the law

14 enforcement unit hiring the police officer shall reimburse the initial
 15 law enforcement unit fifty per cent of the total cost of certification. The
 16 provisions of this section shall not apply to a law enforcement unit that
 17 hires a police officer two years or more after such officer obtains
 18 certification.

19 (c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect an agreement
 20 between a police officer or a collective bargaining unit and a law
 21 enforcement unit entered into prior to the effective date of this section
 22 that provides for the reimbursement of the cost of certification.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 1(c), "between a police officer, a collective bargaining unit or law enforcement unit" was changed to "between a police officer or a collective bargaining unit and a law enforcement unit", for accuracy.

PD *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: See Below

Municipal Impact: See Below

Explanation

The bill requires law enforcement agencies that hire a police officer within two years of obtaining certification at a different law enforcement agency to reimburse the certifying agency half of the cost of such certification.

The cost of police officer certification, as defined in the bill, is estimated to range between \$70,000 and \$120,000 depending on the salary, fringe benefit rate, and training method of the officer. Under the provisions of the bill, law enforcement agencies that hire an officer from another such agency within two years of certification would incur a cost equal to half of the actual cost of the officer's certification. Law enforcement agencies that lose an officer to such a transfer would realize a corresponding revenue gain equal to half of the actual cost of certification.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 454*****AN ACT CONCERNING PAYMENT OF THE COSTS OF CERTIFICATION FOR A POLICE OFFICER.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires any law enforcement unit that hires, on or after the bill's passage, an officer from another law enforcement unit within two years after the officer is certified by the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST) to reimburse the initial hiring unit for 50% of the total cost of certification (i.e., the cost of training, equipment, uniforms, salary and fringe benefits, and any cost related to the council's entry-level requirements). Such costs do not include any equipment or uniforms the officer returns.

The bill does not affect any agreement entered into before its effective date between a police officer or collective bargaining unit and a law enforcement unit providing for certification cost reimbursement. Reimbursement is also not required if an officer is hired at least two years after being certified.

For purposes of the bill, a "law enforcement unit" means any state or municipal agency, organ, or department (or tribal agency, organ, or department created or governed under a memorandum of agreement) whose primary functions include enforcing criminal or traffic laws; preserving public order; protecting life and property; or preventing, detecting, or investigating crime.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND***POST***

The council (1) trains, certifies, and establishes minimum

qualifications for municipal police officers and others and (2) enforces professional standards for certifying and decertifying them.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 19 Nay 0 (03/20/2015)